

## Today's News - Wednesday, October 19, 2011

- Urban planners would like to see São Paulo's "Big Worm" (a.k.a. the elevated highway that "wiggles through the center" of the city) come down: it's a symbol of how "the city became a victim of poor planning and its own success."
- ASLA's new online exhibition explains how urban forests fight air pollution and urban heat islands: "cities can add in millions of trees, while ensuring the trees themselves live long, healthy lives."
- Alas, NYC's Million Trees project is raising issues even supporters worry about (like keeping them alive).
- SWA's Aquino evaluates the California Academy of Sciences' green roof - "what is working and what isn't...there are a few controversial items related to the project that are still subject to debate."
- At the GreenBiz Innovation Forum, IDEO's Lopez explains the 3 common pitfalls of sustainability initiatives and how to avoid such snares: "Sustainability is a verb, not a noun."
- RKS's Sawhney digs deep into how and why the U.S. should move past its preoccupation with manufacturing and "do more to market its strength in innovation": the design and development professions are "a powerful lever - currently underutilized - for economic growth and job creation."
- Bernstein gets a behind-the-scenes tour of the Crystal Bridges Museum with Safdie and (muddy waters notwithstanding) likes what he sees: "Ambitious as it is, it is never overbearing."
- Wilmotte "casts impressionism in spectacular new light" at the newly-renovated Musée d'Orsay, where "the devil was in the detail and color."
- Beha tapped by Vermont's Shelburne Museum to design a center for art and education; for the first time, the museum will be able to stay open year-round.
- Gehry answers critics of his Eisenhower Memorial design: "The people are asking good questions" - but "he disagrees with those who believe he should focus more on war."
- Lewis takes on D.C.'s current bout of "monument-itis" (King and Eisenhower memorials included): "to be sufficiently inspiring and meaningful, commemorative works do not have to be supersized and super expensive."
- Branson opens Foster's Spaceport in New Mexico (and dances barefoot on the glass façade - we kid you not).
- LeBlanc offers up a bricks-and-mortar affordable housing project that is "an example of how to do heritage in Toronto."
- AIA's ABI reverses direction again: "It appears that the positive conditions seen last month were more of an aberration" (groan).
- Priest-architect Runkle joins Haiti reconstruction team to rebuild the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince.
- Another firm joins the name-change game: Pollack Architecture now Rapt Studio.
- We couldn't resist a birthday tribute slide show to Christopher Wren.
- Call for entries: 2012 ASID Design Awards (U.S./North America).

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[A road runs through it: Sao Paulo urban planners want to banish the Big Worm: A 2.2-mile-long elevated highway that wiggles through the center of South America's largest city...must be flattened if the sprawling metropolis is to modernize...Like mega-cities the world over, the city became a victim of poor planning and its own success. By Juan Forero -- Pedro Taddei Neto; Alfonso Vegara; Robert Yaro/Regional Plan Association; Anne Marie Sumner \[slide show, video\]- Washington Post](#)

[Urban Forests = Cleaner, Cooler Air: ASLA's "Designing Our Future: Sustainable Landscapes" online exhibition explains how urban forests fight air pollution and the urban heat island effect...cities can add in millions of trees, while ensuring the trees themselves live long, healthy lives. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[As City Plants Trees, Some Say a Million Are Too Many: Halfway through New York City's Million Trees campaign, even supporters worry about dead wood and other future hazards if maintenance money is lacking. -- Bette Midler/New York Restoration Project- New York Times](#)

[Three Years Later: California Academy of Sciences' Living Roof Also Educates the Design Community: If green roofs are going to be a viable part of the infrastructure systems of our cities...we need to openly evaluate what is working and what isn't...there are a few controversial items related to the project that are still subject to debate. By Gerdo Aquino/SWA Group- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[IF11: 3 Common Pitfalls of Sustainability Initiatives: The most important thing to remember about sustainability is that it's not a thing, but an experience, says IDEO's Beto Lopez...offered advice on how to avoid such snares at the GreenBiz Innovation Forum..."Sustainability is a verb, not a noun, it's something you do ... and you keep doing it." - GreenBiz.com](#)

[Let's Move Past Manufacturing. America Should Be The "Innovation Nation": The U.S....should do more to market its strength in innovation...Many in the public don't yet comprehend how the design and development professions...a powerful lever - currently underutilized - for economic growth and job creation. By Ravi Sawhney/RKS Design- Fast Company](#)

[Moshe Safdie's Crystal Bridges Museum, Bentonville, Arkansas: Weeks before its grand opening, Safdie gives a behind-the-scenes tour of Alice Walton's museum of American art: Ambitious as it is, the museum is never overbearing. By Fred A. Bernstein \[images\]- Architectural Record](#)

[Musée d'Orsay's 'renaissance' casts impressionism in spectacular new light: The French museum's renovation has brought the grandeur of its 19th-century masterpieces back to life...the devil was in the detail and colour..."It is a very special grey. It doesn't have a name..." -- Jean-Michel Wilmotte; Humberto and Fernando Campana; Dominique Brard- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Shelburne Museum announces center for art and education: ...will expand the museum's educational programs...and, for the first time, open the museum year-round. -- Ann Beha Architects \[image\]- ArtDaily.org](#)

[Frank Gehry Answers Critics on Eisenhower Memorial Idea: "The people are asking good questions"...His goal, he said, is to capture the story of "Ike"...he has already made changes from criticism he's heard. But he disagrees with those who believe he should focus more on war... By Brett Zongker/AP- Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#)

[Sizing up great memorials: Sponsors of memorials in the nation's capital can be susceptible to "monument-itis"...to be sufficiently inspiring and meaningful, commemorative works do not have to be supersized and super expensive...the best memorials, through design and surrounding context, elicit thoughtful contemplation. None of these attributes depends on being big. By Roger K. Lewis- Washington Post](#)

[Virgin Galactic opens new Spaceport America in New Mexico: Space travel just got another step closer for the masses \(at least the well-heeled ones\)...The \\$209 million LEED Gold standard structure's...low-profile design is dug into the landscape to exploit the soil's thermal mass...Despite all the upbeat fanfare, however, things haven't always been rosy. -- Foster + Partners; URS; SMPAC Architects \[images, video\]- Gizmag \(Australia\)](#)

[A bricks and mortar argument for conservation: ...handsome, red brick, 27-unit \[affordable housing\] building in the](#)

[Beaches has been with us since 1928, but it's what's been happening recently that makes it an example of how to do heritage in Toronto. By Dave LeBlanc -- Van Elslander Carter Architects \[slide show\]- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Another Drop for Architecture Billings Index: Sluggish conditions reported in most areas: Following the first positive score in four months, the ABI reversed direction again in September..."It appears that the positive conditions seen last month were more of an aberration..."- American Institute of Architects \(AIA\)](#)

[Priest-architect John A. Runkle joins Haiti reconstruction team: ...specializing in historical projects and liturgical spaces, has been named consulting project manager to the Rebuild Our Church in Haiti team working on the reconstruction of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince..."- Episcopal News Service](#)

[Pollack Architecture Emerges as RAPT STUDIO: New Name Signals Final Piece of Company's Evolution to a Multi-Disciplinary Design Practice- MSNBC](#)

[Happy birthday Sir Christopher Wren: Most people know that he was the architect of St Paul's Cathedral, but relatively few are aware that over 50 buildings believed to have been at least partially designed by him still survive today. \[slide show\]- Telegraph \(UK\)](#)

[Call for entries: 2012 ASID Design Awards represent the highest level of excellence in the interior design community and honor those who have made significant contributions toward the advancement of the profession \(U.S./North America\); deadline: December 15- American Society of Interior Designers \(ASID\)](#)

[Mixing It Up with Elders: An Interview with Byron Kuth and Liz Ranieri: "In its current state, the senior living industry is all about isolating senior communities from the larger communities around them. We're proposing a very different social structure." \[images\]- ArchNewsNow.com](#)



[Exhibition: "Zaha Hadid: Form in Motion," Philadelphia Museum of Art](#)

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